

connecting plates have a linear shape when the two housings are in a folded state.

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicant would like to thank the Examiner for the careful consideration given the present application. The application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office action, and amended as necessary to more clearly and particularly describe the subject matter that Applicant regards as the invention.

Reconsideration of the subject patent application in view of the present remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 14, 15, 20, and 25 are amended.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

Claims 14-18 and 20-32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Kauhaniemi et al. (US Patent pub. No. 2004/0266496, hereinafter "Kauhaniemi"). in view of Wilson (U.S. No. 2003/0114184, hereinafter "Wilson").

Regarding claims 14, 15, 20 and 25 neither Kauhaniemi nor Wilson, alone or in combination, discloses, teaches or renders foreseeable that an edge of the bendable member is inclined to a surface of one of the two housing portions while the two housings are in the unfolded state. The examiner recognized that Kauhaniemi does not disclose an element corresponding to the bendable member of the present invention. The examiner, however,

pointed out that the strap of Wilson corresponds to the bendable member of the present invention.

The applicant respectfully disagrees.

The bendable member of the present invention has an arc shape in sectional view perpendicular to a direction in which the bendable member bridges the two housing portions while the two housing portions are in an unfolded state. Also, an edge of the bendable member is inclined to a surface of one of the two housing portions while the two housings are in the unfolded state. On the other hand, the strap of Wilson is generally rectangular in shape and has a central substantially oval embossed or depressed region (page 2, [0024]). Therefore, the shape of the strap of Wilson in sectional view perpendicular to a direction in which the bendable member bridges the two housing portions is like a letter “Ω”. In other words, the cross sectional shape of the strap of Wilson has plate like edges which are parallel to the housing portions. This fact means that, because of the rectangular shape, the edge of the strap of Wilson is not inclined to a surface of one of the two housing portions while the two housings are in the unfolded state.

In addition, the strap of Wilson does not flexibly bend. From technical point of view, the plate like edges prevent the oval embossed or depressed region from flexibly bending because the plate like edges reinforce rigidity of the oval embossed or depressed region.

Accordingly, the combination of Kauhaniemi and Wilson does not meet all of the limitations of claims 14, 15, 20 or 25. Therefore, the asserted combination of Kauhaniemi and Wilson does not render claims 14, 15, 20 and 25 obvious. Thus, withdrawal of the rejection as it applies to claims 14, 15, 20 and 25 is respectfully requested.

Claims 16-18, 21-24 and 26-32 which are directly or indirectly dependent from any one of claims 14, 15, 20 and 25 should be allowable for at least the same reason as claims 14, 15, 20 and 25.

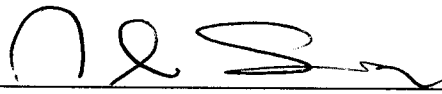
In consideration of the foregoing analysis, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in a condition for allowance and notice to that effect is hereby requested. If it is determined that the application is not in a condition for allowance, the examiner is invited to initiate a telephone interview with the undersigned attorney to expedite prosecution of the present application.

Appl. No. 10/576,630
Amdt. Dated: June 5, 2009
Reply to Office action of March 5, 2009

If there are any additional fees resulting from this communication, please charge same to our Deposit Account No. 16-0820, our Order No.: NGB-40271.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: June 5, 2009